

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A substantially transparent electrode assembly comprising:

- a substrate;
- a high index layer formed on the substrate;
- a conductive layer formed on the high index layer; ~~and~~
- a high index top layer having a conductivity ranging from about 100 ohms/square to about 400 ohms/square and a thickness of from about 20 nm to about 100 nm formed on the conductive layer,
- at least the top layer and the conductive layer being patterned so as to divide the conductive layer into a plurality of discrete electrodes; and
- a layer of silica disposed on the substrate.

Claim 19 (original): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 having a plurality of conductors connected to portions of the top layer overlying the discrete electrodes.

Claim 20 (original): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the high index layer adjacent the substrate is an electrically insulating layer

Claim 21 (original): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the substrate comprises a synthetic resin.

Claim 22 (original): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the high index layer adjacent the substrate comprises at least one of indium oxide, titanium dioxide, cadmium oxide, gallium indium oxide, indium tin oxide and tin dioxide.

Claim 23 (original): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the conductive layer comprises at least one of gold, silver and a gold/silver alloy.

Claim 24 (original): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the top layer comprises at least one of indium oxide, titanium dioxide, cadmium oxide, gallium indium oxide, indium tin oxide and tin dioxide.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (original): A liquid crystal display assembly comprising a liquid crystal material sandwiched between two electrode assemblies, at least one of the electrode assemblies being an assembly according to claim 18.

Claim 27 (original): A touch screen display apparatus comprising a display screen having superposed thereover two electrode assemblies, at least one of the electrode assemblies being an assembly according to claim 18.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the substrate is a material selected from the group consisting of polyether sulfones, poly(alkyl)acrylates, cellulose diacetate, polycarbonates, polyesters, polycarbonate copolymers and

poly(bis(cyclopentadinene) condensate).

Claim 29 (new): A substantially transparent electrode assembly comprising:

a substrate;

a high index layer formed on the substrate;

a conductive layer formed on the high index layer;

a high index top layer having a conductivity ranging from about 100 ohms/square to about 400 ohms/square and a thickness of from about 20 nm to less than about 30 nm formed on the conductive layer,

at least the top layer and the conductive layer being patterned so as to divide the conductive layer into a plurality of discrete electrodes.

Claim 30 (new) An electrode assembly according to claim 29 further comprising a hard coating.

Claim 31 (new) An electrode assembly according to claim 29 wherein the hard coating has a thickness from about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 32 (new) An electrode assembly according to claim 18 wherein the layer of silica has a thickness from about 10 nm to about 30 nm.